

Our Lady of Good Hope Roman Catholic Church

P. O. Box 159, 671 Water Ave., Hope, BC V0X 1L0
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Father Gordon A. Cook, OMI

Third Sunday of Lent – March 15, 2020

Weekday Masses

Tuesday to Saturday 9:00 AM

Sunday Masses

Saturday – 4:30 PM (anticipated Mass)
Sunday – 9:00 AM

Confessions

Weekdays Tuesday to Saturday – 8:30 AM to 8:45 AM
Saturday - 3:30 PM to 4:00 PM
Always available upon request.

Please pray for all our parishioners who are ill, at home, or in the hospital, in particular:

May Our Lord sustain, comfort and heal them through their faith.

Marilyn McKay, Galdino Berti, Yunha Kim, Dolores Azevedo, David De Beer, Brian Sparkes, Maxwell Paller, Art Pottie

Last Sunday Offering

\$ 991 Envelopes Number of envelopes: 40(53%)
\$ 60 Loose
\$ 1,481 Weekly Anticipated Expenses

Thank you for your generous support of your Parish.

Come and Pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent

after the 9:00 AM Mass

Come, says Jesus, and walk with Me on My final hours on earth.

Sunday Coffee Schedule

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

March 2020

March 15, 2020	Suzanne Adams	Liette Jauniaux
March 22, 2020	Filipino	Grace

April 2020

April 19, 2020	Lynn Ortis	Sandy Kos
April 26, 2020	Filipino	Grace

May 2020

May 3, 2020	Linda Mageau	Yo Anderson
May 17, 2020	Filipino	Grace

A Flower Grows in the Dungeon

A long time ago a Frenchman incurred the displeasure of the Emperor Napoleon. He was put into a dungeon. He was forsaken by his friends and forgotten by everyone in the outside world. In loneliness and near despair he took a stone and scratched on the wall of his cell, ***"Nobody cares."***

One day a green shoot came up through the cracks in the stones on the floor of the dungeon. It began to reach up toward the light in the tiny window at the top of the cell. The prisoner kept part of the water brought to him each day by the jailer and poured it on the blade of green. It grew until at last it became a plant with a beautiful blue flower. As the petals opened in full blossoms, the solitary captive crossed out the words previously written on the wall and above them scratched, "**God cares.**"

Christ Himself is like that plant and that flower, reaching out to us in the darkest recesses of our souls. He is the water of grace flowing in the desert of this fallen world. And because we believe in His tireless love for us, we call ourselves Catholics.

Reflection on Today's Gospel – John 4:5-42 - Living Water

In today's Gospel, Jesus reveals that He is the *living water* for our journey. The revelation that Jesus is the *living water* begins on an ordinary day. A Samaritan woman picks up her heavy water jar to make her daily trip to Jacob's well. We notice the woman does not have a name, maybe because she really represents all of us in some way.

As the woman approaches the well, she sees a man sitting on the edge of the well and talking to a group of men. It is important to note that they are sitting at Jacob's well, a place where important events have taken place in Jewish history.

As we read about this encounter, we see the patience and love Jesus has as He brings the woman to believe in Him as the source of *living water*. Jesus reveals who He is in stages to the woman. Jesus says to her, "*Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.*" The woman is astonished to hear that Jesus could provide her with water that would last forever. The woman refers to Jacob's gift of water but Jesus makes a distinction between ordinary water and a spring of *water welling up to eternal life*.

Soon the conversation turns to her having five husbands, or worshipping five gods, because the Greek word for god is husband. The false gods failed to bring her and her people happiness. She is thirsting for her true God who will bring happiness to her and her people. It was at this moment Jesus says, "*the one you have now is not your husband.*" In saying this, Jesus is referring to Himself.

The woman, thirsting at the words of Jesus, expresses her belief in the Messiah who is to come. The woman is referring to the Book of Deuteronomy. Jesus says to her, "*I am He, the one who is speaking to you.*" Imagine the woman's shock when Jesus says that *He is the Messiah, the Promised One of God*.

The woman, after meeting Jesus, leaves her water jar behind and immediately runs back to the village to proclaim that the long awaited *Messiah* has come. She then leads the people back to the well to meet the promised Messiah, Jesus, for in the Book of Deuteronomy, it is written: "*to Him you shall listen.*" Many in the town also receive *living water* as they in turn encounter Jesus and came to believe in Him themselves.

The woman's conversion gives us great hope in this Lenten season, because in human terms, a worthwhile life is beyond her because of her past. Yet her past does not hinder her from coming close to Christ. Jesus wins her over with His love, by gently leading her out of herself, and by raising her mind and heart to a higher spiritual level. At Jacob's well, Jesus, by asking for a drink of water, changes her life.

This offer of *living water* is given to us today, let us drink freely of this life-giving and refreshing gift that Jesus has given us. Jesus has living water that will bring life to your life, as He did to the Samaritan woman. May our hearts also thirst for Christ, the fountain of *living water*.

We Have Two Types of Thirst

We all experience two kinds of thirst in life, and unless we understand the difference between them, we will always be frustrated.

The first kind of thirst is horizontal thirst. We thirst for, we desire, the good things of this earth: food, drink, companionship, fun, entertainment, a nice house, a good income, success at work or school. It's part of our nature to desire these things, there's nothing wrong with them.

But we also have another kind of thirst, the vertical thirst. This is a deeper thirst, a deeper desire. It's a desire for meaning and purpose of life. This desire is also built into our

nature. There is nothing we can do to destroy it, just as there is nothing we can do to destroy our natural desires for food and water.

But unlike horizontal thirst, our vertical thirst cannot be satisfied by our own efforts. Only God Himself can satisfy it. And He created us like that on purpose. It's as if He put a homing device in the very core of our being, and it constantly draws us towards Him, towards intimate personal contact with His transcendent love.

This is why even when all of our horizontal thirsts are satisfied, when we have money, success, and pleasure, we are still restless. Our deeper, vertical thirst can't be satisfied by things of this world. As our Catechism puts it, "Man is made to live in communion with God, in whom He finds happiness" (#5). The meaning and purpose of life which alone will give us true happiness comes from friendship with God in Christ, not from worldly success, pleasures, and human relationships.

Trusting God

A rock climber was in the mountains, climbing alone. And it was getting late. The sun had just gone down, and the temperature was dropping fast. He was descending a section of rock that was inclined beyond the vertical, like the inside of a steep roof. He was deep in the shadows of cliffs. Suddenly, he slipped, lost his grip, and did a free fall of about forty feet before his rope caught on the last stay he driven into the rock.

He was hanging like a spider on a strand of web. He tried to climb up the rope, but at the end of the long day, he just didn't have the strength. He was hanging there in the void. It was dark. It was cold. He had nowhere to turn.

So even though he wasn't a church-going man, he said a prayer, "*God, if you're up there, please help me.*" Much to his surprise, he heard an answer. It said, "**Cut your rope.**" He was surprised but overjoyed to get an answer, but he didn't like the answer he got. He looked below him. Only darkness. It was getting colder.

He prayed again, "*God, if that's really you, please help me.*" Again, he heard an answer, "**It really is me. Cut your rope. Trust me.**" He looked down again. It was getting colder. He couldn't understand by God wanted him to cut his only support. He took out his knife. But he couldn't get himself to cut the rope.

The next morning in the bright sunlight a group of rock climbers found him hanging from his rope, frozen to death, **two feet above the ground.**

So many times we are at the end of our rope and need the help of someone we can trust, someone who is faithful, *like God*. He won't always explain everything to us, because we simply can't understand it all, our eyesight is limited. But when we hear His voice in our conscience, we know that the One who is all-good and all-powerful is faithfully guiding us, and **He won't leave us hanging, if we believe in Him.**

Feast of St. Joseph on March 19

St. Joseph is silent in the Gospels, but His actions give us important clues about the character of the man who raised the Son of God as his own child in first-century Nazareth.

St. Matthew explains in his Gospel Joseph's initial response to the news that his wife, Mary, was pregnant. "Joseph . . . since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly" (Matthew 1:19).

As a "righteous" man, Joseph followed the Mosaic law, which would have condemned Mary to death by public stoning. Yet he did not act in retribution for what he must have assumed was a personal betrayal. Instead, his actions speak of concern for Mary.

We also know that on three occasions, Joseph drastically changed his life's course to cooperate with God by taking Mary as his wife, moving his young family to Egypt and then returning to Nazareth.

We do not know how or when St. Joseph died, but Church tradition puts his death sometime before Jesus began His public ministry. When he died, Joseph was surrounded in the love and tenderness of Mary and Jesus.

Reflection: Joseph's decisive actions reflect a deep sense of caring, justice and faithfulness to God's will. Like St. Joseph, we all face difficult decisions. As tempting as it is to say that Joseph was special because he was called by God, the truth is that *we are all called to the same holiness.*